

Supergrouping 3: Groups LIII-LXXVIII, claims 7, 14 and 15, drawn to antibodies having specificity for one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 26-52, respectively, and pharmaceutical compositions comprising them;

Supergrouping 4: Groups LXXIX-CIV, claims 16-23, drawn to nucleic acid detection methods employing the nucleic acid of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1-26, respectively;

Supergrouping 5: Groups CV-CXXX, claims 24-26, drawn to an assay for the effect of a compound on one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 27-52, respectively;

Supergrouping 6: Groups CXXXI-CLVI, claim 27, drawn to an activator of one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 27-52, respectively;

Supergrouping 7: Groups CLVII-CLXXXII, claim 28, drawn to a deactivator of one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 27-52, respectively;

Supergrouping 8: Groups CLXXXIII-CCVIII, claims 29-32, drawn to amino acid sequence detection methods employing an antibody specific for one of the amino acid sequences of one of SEQ ID NOS: 27-52, respectively; and

Supergrouping 9: Groups CCIX-CCXXXIV, claims 33 and 34, drawn to an antibody detection method employing one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 27-52, respectively.

For the purpose of initiating examination in the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of invention XLII (claims 4, 5, 12 and 13), under Supergroup 2. The elected invention corresponds to the amino acid SEQ ID NO: 42, which is encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 16 (invention XVI).

Applicants respectfully submit that invention XVI of Supergroup 1 - drawn to the nucleic acid sequence coding for the elected amino acid sequence, invention LXVIII of Supergroup 3 - drawn to antibodies specific for the amino acid sequence, invention XCIV of Supergroup 4 - drawn to a method using the nucleic acid sequence, invention CXCVIII of Supergroup 8 - drawn to amino acid sequence detection methods, and invention CCXXIV of Supergroup 9 - drawn to a method using the elected amino acid sequence, should be considered together with the elected invention XLII of Supergroup 2. It is respectfully submitted that examination of the above-mentioned subject matter would not be undue burden on the Examiner.

By electing invention XLII, the Applicants have elected SEQ ID NO: 42 in order to initiate prosecution in the present application. Applicants further elect the corresponding nucleotide sequence, SEQ ID NO: 16, in the event that the Examiner considers inventions XVI and XLII at the same time.

Further, since Applicants have elected product claims, the Examiner should rejoin withdrawn process claims upon allowance of the product claims. (See MPEP 821.04)

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner (Reg. No. 32,181) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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